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If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned  
at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

7. (Amended) A catalyst carrier according to claim 1 [or 6], wherein the alumina thin film is an amount of 0.1-15 wt% per the carrier as an alumina amount.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 8 [or 9], wherein the silicon-containing ceramic carrier is constructed with a carrier of silicide including a non-oxide ceramic such as silicon carbide or silicon nitride and an oxide ceramic such as sialon, mullite or cordierite.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 8 [or 9], wherein the silicon-containing ceramic carrier is any of a porous body, fiber shaped body and pellet shaped body.

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 8 [or 9], wherein the silicon-containing ceramic carrier is formed by a honeycomb-like porous silicon carbide sintered body.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 8 [or 9], wherein the silicon-containing ceramic carrier has a  $\text{SiO}_2$  layer on its surface, and an amount of  $\text{SiO}_2$  occupied in the carrier is 0.001-20 wt%.